IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants have requested amendment to claims 1, 14-16, 18 and 20, a copy of each of these claims being presented herein. A marked-up version of these claims entitled "Version With Markings Showing Changes Made" indicating insertions and deletions is included as an attachment to this Amendment.

Please amend claims 1, 14-16, 18 and 20 as follows.

1. (Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has been distributed to each user within a predetermined time period.

14. (Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each time said information is distributed to said user is determined in a composite manner depending on respective numbers of times that said information has been distributed to each user in a plurality of set terms.

15. (Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, characterized in that a receiver selects at least one term of a plurality of set terms and an amount of money billed to a user each time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has been distributed to each user in said selected term.

16. (Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing, comprising:

an information distributing means for distributing said information to a user; and

a transaction means comprised of a means for counting the number of times said information is distributed to each user and a means for controlling a billing system for billing for a next distribution depending on the number of distributions counted.

18. (Amended) A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting a number of distributions of said information to each user; and

controlling a billing information for billing for a next distribution depending on a counted number of distributions.

20. (Amended) A transaction system to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising:

a means for counting a number of distributions of said information to each user; and

a means for controlling a billing information for billing for a next distribution depending on a counted number of distributions.

Please add new claim 22 as follows.

22. (New) A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting the number of times that a content is distributed to each user during a predetermined time period, each user being billed for an amount of money of said content;

changing said amount of money to be billed to each user for a next distribution of said content based on the result of counting; and